

To Michael Powell:

I am appalled at the decision made by Sinclair Broadcasting, and effectively supported by the FCC, to use the public airways for what is essentially an extended, anti-Kerry political advertisement. If the FCC is unable, or unwilling, to take measures against Sinclair's abuse of the public airways and its affiliates, we need to begin asking some very difficult questions about what stake the FCC has in protecting the interests of its media citizenry, as opposed to the interests of big media corporations.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

Lynn Comella, Ph.D.